



DIVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Health Services
Disease Prevention
Family Health
Health Promotion
State Epidemiologist

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Vaccine Providers

FROM: Bonnie Jameson, Administrator - Office of Disease Prevention

DATE: January 9, 2007

RE: HPV Vaccine

I am pleased to inform you that Governor Rounds announced today an initiative to offer Gardasil, the new HPV vaccine, to all South Dakota girls between the ages of 11 and 18.

HPV causes almost 70% of cervical cancers. The Gardasil vaccine is highly effective in preventing HPV in young women who have not been previously exposed to the virus.

This vaccine is a huge public health breakthrough that will help prevent the suffering and death from cervical cancer that affects so many families. In South Dakota, an average of 25 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer every year and nine of them die.

The Department of Health will purchase the vaccine and supply it to all of our vaccine providers the same way we do with other childhood vaccines. We will also work to promote this initiative so parents know the vaccine is available and will be emphasizing the importance of discussing the vaccine with the individual's medical provider. Our intent is that families seek the vaccine from their medical home.

Starting January 22, 2007, the HPV vaccine will be made available for all 11 - 18 year old girls. The program is in effect through December 31, 2007, we will continue to provide vaccine to those girls who start the series in 2007 but won't be able to complete it until 2008.

Please contact Lori King to place your vaccine orders; she can be reached at 773-4963. Vaccine Information Statements are available through our office as well.

We are extremely excited about this opportunity to offer this lifesaving vaccine for South Dakota's next generation of women.